



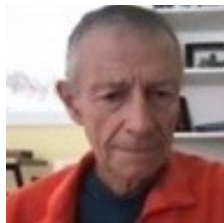
February 19, 2021 Chartered December 1, 1920 Reporter Susan Munroe Photographer Treena Breyfogle



Preliminaries

It's not like having an in-person meeting, but even with Zoom, there's an opportunity to greet and chat before the meeting gets underway.

Nancy introduced her guest, soon-to-be-member **Sam Willocks**. Sam will be a Day-Lum corporate member. Connie introduced her guest, **Jade Chen**. Jade is an author, yoga instructor, martial-arts black belt, and mother of a 10-year-old son. Also joining us was our District Governor, **Naomi Masuno**. Naomi said today's speaker program sounded interesting.



Nice to see remote member **Stan Fortuna**, joining us all the way from chilly Michigan. **Chris Tamm**



was on a white-sand beach somewhere, according to his virtual background. And **Alan Kusunoki** signed in from his home on Oahu.



Hilo Hotel, 1920

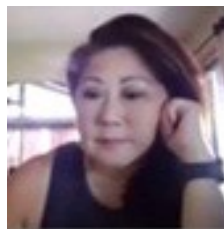


Announcements & Events

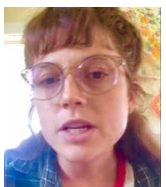
"100s" Projects. Community Support co-chair **Treena** reported on the "100s" projects we are doing during Nancy's year: for January we chose blankets for the Friends of the Children's Justice Center, homeless and elderly. February is 100 "rubbah slippahs. We still need more blankets and footwear; drop off your contribution at Day-Lum or Hawaii Printing.



President **Nancy Cabral** called the meeting to order at noon. She asked Membership Director **Connie Ichinose** to pick someone to lead the pledge. Connie asked **Julie Kron**. [reporter's observation: Zoom is good at some things, but enabling participants to recite anything in unison is not one of those things]



Wailoa Ethnobotanical Garden (Wednesday, February 24, 7-10 AM). **Dani Preston** is sprucing up the plantings around the Wailoa Arts and Cultural Center every other Wednesday. Details on hilorotary.org or contact Dani. Dani is also soliciting native plants. Contact her if you have some that you would like to donate.



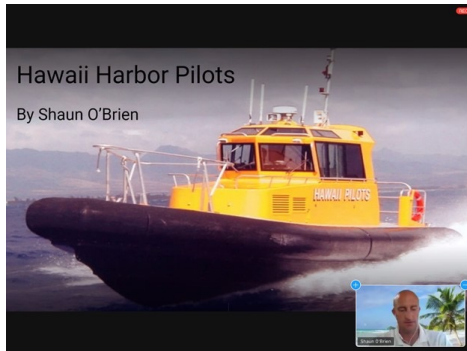
"Go Cook'Um Crew" (every Thursday, 10:30AM). Community Service Director **Wally Wong** started this project months ago, and it has become a permanent thing. Every Thursday a dedicated crew of club members shows up to make lunch at the Hawaii Island Home for Recovery, using whatever they find in the kitchen that day. **Connie Ichinose** and **Helene Tajiri** say anyone is welcome. Just show up!



Volunteers and Guests

Nancy thanked our Lava Flow volunteers; on February 5 **Helen Hemmes** did the reporting and **Eric Anderson** took pictures. This week, I'm reporter, and **Treena Breyfogle** is doing the photography.

DOH Covid Vaccination Call Center 808-300-1120 (M - F). District Trainer **Benson Medina** forwarded this opportunity to all Hilo Rotarians. The call center was set up to allow computer-challenged folks to get appointments for their Covid shots. Volunteers will be trained, and there's a script to help you through the calls. Sign up for a 3-hour shift [here](#).



Vocational Talk

Newish member **Shaun O'Brien** (corporate member with Sun Construction) told us about the Pilots Association of Hawaii. Pilots are the highly skilled mariners who pilot large vessels into and out of harbors.

When a vessel approaches Hilo Harbor, they request a pilot. The pilot is delivered to the ship from Hilo on a pilot boat. The pilot boat moves alongside, and *while both the boats are underway*, the pilot climbs up a rope ladder onto the larger vessel. During the transfer, it's the pilot boat operator who keeps the pilot safe. Shaun is one of the guys who operates the pilot boat (in his off-hours from Sun Construction). He showed us some pictures. The pilot boat is entirely wrapped in rubber, to make close contact with large vessels safer.

Shaun also spoke about learning his craft on the *S/V Machias*, a sail powered boat that delivers cargo to small islands in the Pacific. Sounds like that might be a topic for a future speaker program.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

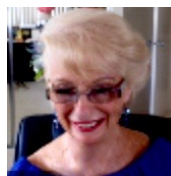
Birthdays. **Shane Okimoto** on February 6, **Helen Hemmes** on February 8, and **Jimmy Yagi** on February 18

Wedding Anniversaries. **Alberta Dobbe** and her late husband Al were married 67 years ago, on February 6, 1954

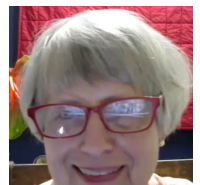
Club Anniversaries. **Mike Meyer** joined Rotary 6 years ago, on February 6; **Helen Hemmes** celebrated 33 years with the club on February 13; and **Dirk Yoshina** became a member 29 years ago, on February 14, 1992.

Happy Dollars

Genie Phillips had to get a new car last week, because someone hit her car - and rolled it. The car was totaled, but nobody was hurt. No reason for Happy Dollars there - but Genie has a new car now, from Orchid Isle Ford. She said **Bob Hanley** was so helpful that she was inspired to make very generous donation to TRF in Bob's name.



Since **Helen Hemmes** had a birthday *and* a club anniversary recently, she donated to HYRF: \$1 of each year in Rotary and \$1 for each year of age. We don't know exactly how much that is, but thanks, Helen!



Susan Munro and **Kerry Glass** will be sending a donation to TRF because an honest Walmart shopper found Kerry's wallet in the parking lot on Saturday and turned it in to Customer Service.

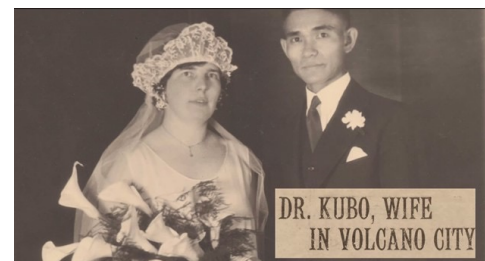
Nancy's making a TRF donation too - because **Wally Wong's** daughter Pua is doing so much better since her serious accident a few weeks ago. Pua's move out of the hospital into a rehabilitation facility.

Today's Program



Jim Cheney, our inimitable Program Chair, introduced **Eric Page**, the Archivist at the Lyman Museum. Eric has a Master of Arts in museum studies and a Master of Divinity.

Eric told us the story of **Florence and Masao Kubo**, a couple who lived in Hilo between 1929 and 1952. The Lyman Museum got their papers from a relative on the mainland years later, and Eric has been organizing and investigating them. Masao, was born in the Territory of Hawaii. His parents had immigrated to the Territory from Japan. He went to the mainland to attend dental college. There he met Florence, an American woman and a graduate of Barnard College. Though we don't know the details of their courtship, we know that one month after their Massachusetts wedding, they were on the way to Hilo, where Masao set up his dental practice. In those days, they would have been considered an "interracial" couple.



Once in Hawaii, they immersed themselves in the social life of Hilo. They had a well-known Hawaii architect design a large house on Wailuku Drive. She joined the women's civic organizations like the YWCA, and the United Council of Church Women. He joined the Masons and the YMCA. In 1931 he joined the Rotary Club of Hilo. Masao was 22nd president of the club in 1940-1941.

His papers included their wedding photo, pictures of both their parents, and picture of their house. We saw photos from various business and social events they had attended, including a 1940 picture of the membership of the Rotary Club. There was even an old "Lava Flow." Our club sponsored a Basketball team back then, and their picture was among the papers.

An interesting "slice of life" from Old Hilo!

And that's all, Folks!

Shaun led us in the 4-Way Test, and Nancy rang the bell to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting. See you on Zoom **March 5**. Our own **Mitch Roth** will be the featured speaker. He will talk about what it's like to be Mayor of Hawaii County.



ROTARY CLUB OF HILO

